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SOURCE Le Messenger D'Athenes.EXAMPLES OF PARTY OPPRESSION IN RUMANIA

Two recent incidents were reported in an article by D. G. R. Serbanesco in the Athens daily newspaper Le Messenger D'Athenes of 22 November 1952 as an indication of the methods employed by the Rumanian Communist Party.

The first incident pertained to a party member in good standing, a man named Kremer /fnu/. He always carried out instructions as ordered, participated in all meetings, and was a regular subscriber to the party newspaper Scanteia. As required of all party members, according to the article, Kremer sold 20 issues of Scanteia on the streets of Bucharest every Sunday morning. Since it was strictly forbidden to distribute the papers free, Serbanesco continued in Le Messenger D'Athenes, all party paper vendors were regularly followed by other party agents, who watched whether the copies were legitimately sold or merely given away. The official reason for this surveillance of Scanteia vendors was to prevent them from being attacked by mobs on the streets, as was frequently the practice, Serbanesco wrote.

One Sunday, however, according to the article, Kremer was seen giving the copies away, instead of selling them. He paid the difference out of his own pocket. Shortly thereafter, Kremer was arrested and sent to the USSR, despite his long service to the party and despite his responsibilities as the father of two children, Serbanesco stated.

The second incident recounted by Serbanesco in Le Messenger D'Athenes pertained to the collection of "volunteer labor" to be used in clearing the debris of the capital. Two damaged buildings in the Piata Victoriei of Bucharest had to be demolished and the resulting debris carted away. An appeal was made in the press for volunteer workers. No one appeared. The party then conducted a simultaneous search through all Bucharest motion-picture theaters. All persons found there between the hours of 1500 and 1700 were recruited for compulsory labor. Children over the age of 12 and women were also taken.

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However, Serbanesco continued, the number thus acquired was still not adequate, because the public had neither the means nor the desire to attend Soviet propaganda movies. Therefore, the article stated, the party made one last effort. It impressed into forced labor all of the 300 party officials who were charged with the duty of recruiting volunteer labor but failed to carry out this order.

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